Death and Dying Unit: Calendar

Overview: Each week will have a different aspect of death and dying. The first week will show the cultural differences and practices that are used in relation to death around the globe. The second week will be focusing more on the ethical side of death and controversial topics across the cultures. The third week will be more student centered as they work towards their final project, which is the interview with someone from another culture.

Day One: Introduction to the unit; go over worksheet of comparative traditions on death from around the world to show the differences and similarities in the cultural customs associated with death; have open discussion.

Day Two: How death is viewed in South America. (Mexico – Day of the Dead, other Spanish-speaking cultures, celebrations of death)

Day Three: How death is viewed in Europe.

Day Four: How death is viewed in Asia. (Chinese burial rites, Japanese culture and samurai)

Day Five: How death is viewed in Africa. (Tribal rituals versus Southern Africa, comparative customs between tribes)

Day Six: Students will learn about different cases involving life support split family decisions.

Day Seven: Students will learn about Dr. Kevorkian and debate over his methods.

Day Eight: Abortion around the world – how is it seen? As a celebrated death, or murder?

Day Nine: Holistic cancer treatments versus common oncology treatments.

Day Ten: Women in the Middle East and the funeral pyre.

Day Eleven: Have a Hospice nurse come into the classroom for students to ask questions (come prepared with questions for the day) about end-of-life care

Day Twelve: Write your own eulogy from the perspective of how Death from Book Thief.

Day Thirteen: Peer review of the writing from the previous class.

Day Fourteen: Present interview/essay overview along with some form of presentation. Only four minutes per student.

Day Fifteen: Present interview/essay overview along with some form of presentation. Only four minutes per student.